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THOUSAND YEARS IN THY SIGHT.

Man, in his littleness, chops his periods of time into centuries, arbitrary little marks upon the great bosom of eternity, and then inflates himself with look-back upon what his own race has done during the short span of a hundred years. We all like to do it. Thousands of printing presses are turning forth the most elaborate accounts of what was occurring at the opening of 1801, and comparing the strides that have been made at this opening of 1901.

Yes! It is true there have been strides made. We have become more proficient in mechanical arts and in harnessing some of the forces of nature, in part, to our use. Steam and electricity have been made to do our bidding—but at times they turn upon us puny masters and rend us, as witness boiler explosions, railway accidents, live wires, and many other unpleasant accessories of our advancement. Still we can say that we have made a gain in speed, and with it we have lost the dignified leisure of our century ago ancestors.

Have we improved so very much in manners and morality? We like to think so in our pride. But the manners of the people in 1801 were more dignified than those of 1901, and there was a chivalry about those ancestors, which many of us might copy, with considerable advantage to ourselves. As for morality, there may have been coarser vice in 1801, but it is doubtful whether there were greater sinks of iniquity at that period to be found than can now be found in Paris, London, Vienna, New York, Chicago or San Francisco.

Have we become more peaceful, more forgiving? We prate of peace in a conference of powers, and then Great Britain promptly starts in for a bloody war in the Transvaal which is still raging. The United States has a war in the Philippines still on hand, and the Powers of the civilized world are carrying on a war with China, the details of which are certainly not conducive to a high opinion of our advance in methods of carrying on war from the days of Napoleon.

Are we less cruel? The brute crops out in us in murder all over the globe. We hear of negroes being burned alive of men being put to death without law. More liberal? Men still lose their liberty for their opinions in some countries, their means of livelihood in others. More religious? The strong faith of many of our ancestors a hundred years ago, has become sapped in their present descendants. One has only to go to New England and old England to see that.

It looks a dark picture. It is not nearly so dark as it seems. It looks dark when we apply broad washes to the microcosm of time called a century. It is as if a man were trying to see how great his mental improvement was after half an hour's work. The writer of the Psalm xc, understood the breadth of historical events, the pettiness of man's single or aggregate existence. "A thousand years in thy sight," sang he "are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." And of the individual he hymns, he is "like grass which groweth up" and "in the evening it is cut down and withereth."

Viewed as this man of the ages past viewed human events, we need not put on a magnifying glass to see what we were a hundred years ago. Let us go back to the year 901. Then on such broad lines we can see the grand washes the true advance of civilization.

At the beginning of the tenth century the lamp of Christianity was unlighted in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia and much of what is now Eastern Germany, the inhabitants were fierce, blood thirsty, and the chiefs ruled by their strong arms. Might was right. The Western Civilization which at the commencement of the Twentieth Century has encircled the globe, and which is now coming face to face with the Eastern Civilization, was confined to the jarring and warring states of Italy, France, Germany, England under her weakly Saxon Kinglets, Scotland, and the Byzantine Empire. Each of these was threatened with extinction from barbarous tribes in the North, and from the Mahomedan power in the South. Though the latter wave had been checked, it was still surging throughout the Mediterranean and occupying fair provinces in Spain, in Italy, in Sicily, and was eating up all that was left of Western Civilization in Asia Minor.

It was a period of dense ignorance, of famines, of pestilence. Packs of wolves ranged over France because the inhabitants did not till the fields, but huddled in little cities, carrying on precarious trade, and a cultivation scarcely a bow shot from the walls. Only here and there in the monasteries did the feeble light of learning burn. In Byzantium and the cities of Italy classic learning remained, and even grew, but it was almost hourly threatened with extinction. The year 901 was a most gloomy one, and small wonder was it that the unhappy people of that tenth century expected that the end

of the world was at hand, and set the date for the year 1,000.

Contrasted with this what a brilliant prospect there is as we enter upon the threshold of the twentieth century. There may be serious faults among us now. There may be grievous wrong. There may be cruelty at times. There may be ignorance. But there are not the unbearable conditions, the dense darkness, the apparent hopelessness of life which existed one thousand years ago. The lamp of Christianity and Western civilization illumines the globe with the most brilliant of rays. There are dark places, but the power which has guided the footsteps of this great transition, will give future generations of the human race illumination of the most hidden of these.

Our century, the nineteenth, is but a small link in the mighty chain of which we know not the beginning and we can have no notion of the end, only we know that it is leading to something grand and beautiful which far surpasses our finite minds, and to which each in our little way, as the coral polyp helps to build the mighty reefs, may add a mite and be forgotten individually though immortal collectively.

And so we can usher in the coming century, the last of the second decade of Christianity, with feelings of joy and a certainty that the path of progress will open out rosier before our posterity, and that the thorns and the briers will be less and less as the centuries fly past. Our microcosm of time will one day be regarded as a rude age, but not a savage age. Let us be thankful our lines fell in it. In which spirit we can wish one another, heartily.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

As children welcome the dawning of another bright and happy day.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Board of Health here is proposing to take strong steps in the direction of a struggle with tuberculosis. It is satisfactory to find that the time has come when "doing" is to take the place of "talking." Some time ago the Board of Health could not see its way to passing a regulation with regard to tuberculous teachers and the Commissioners of Education were obliged to make one of their own. Under Dr. Raymond's presidency, however, the Board seems determined and ready to carry on an efficient warfare against this appalling disease in all directions.

In Germany, recently, the Department of the Interior has issued stringent regulations with regard to tuberculosis either of the lungs or larynx. The police is the machinery by which health regulations are carried in the Empire, but it matters not what the machinery may be, the aim is the main thing. With us the Board of Health officials do the work that the police do in Germany. "Every case of lung or larynx tuberculosis in private institutions for the sick, orphan asylums, poorhouses, workhouses, hotels, and lodging houses of all kinds must be reported by the attending physician to the police. Should there be no physician in attendance the owner, keeper, or person in charge of the above named institutions must report the same to the police within three days after the same has come to his notice."

The penalty for disobeying this regulation is 150 marks (\$25.70), a heavy fine in Germany, or imprisonment up to six weeks.

Moreover all physicians, even those in private practice, are under similar penalty for not reporting any case of tuberculosis to the police. This gives the authorities a complete record of tuberculosis throughout the empire, and does not wait for death to announce the fact.

Another regulation provides that in the case of a person suffering from lung or larynx tuberculosis, the room and effects of said person must be disinfected as soon as he is transferred to another place. In disinfecting it is especially recommended that the process be carried out under the direction of the district physician.

The regulations for Germany may not be applicable here, and the machinery is totally different from our own, but we can learn a great deal from what the German authorities are doing. One of the great lessons is that the authorities of the Empire recognize the necessity of stringent regulations in regard to tuberculosis and support those regulations by heavy penalties. They are meant to commence a real warfare against an acknowledged enemy of the human race. We have in a great measure beaten small-pox and cholera and other contagious diseases. Where they used to slay their thousands, they now only slay their tens or their hundreds. Tuberculosis, however, been allowed to rage unchecked. The coming century will see this battle fought out and won, and Hawaii means to take her part in the struggle.

The death of Archie Steele of Hilo was a peculiarly distressing one. It is always a loss to a community when a bright and rising young man dies. In Steele's case he was not only a rising man, but he had just entered upon what promised to be the happiest of family lives. The Star was attached to Mr. Steele by the kindest of ties, and his friends in Honolulu join with those of Hilo in mourning their loss.

Though the oldest of the Wilds—boats the Kilauea Hou was still a staunch seaworthy craft and was capable of doing a good deal of hard work had she not got piled up upon Hilo beach. Fortunately the wrecks of our local vessels are unaccompanied by the terrible loss of life which usually is an incident of wrecks on the Northern Coasts either of the Atlantic or the Pacific, and, though we have heavy gales, we have nothing like the hurricanes which sweep the shores of the Islands further to the south.

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